

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, EINV, RP

SUBJECT:WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/PHL - BENJAMIN A FLECK

1. CASE OF JESSICA SALES (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

ON JANUARY 26/27, EA/PHL RECEIVED THREE INQUIRIES REGARD-
ING THE REPORTED DEATH OF JESSICA SALES, WHOSE DISAPPEAR-
ANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES IN JULY 1977 HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF
CONCERN TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, THE RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS'
TASK FORCE ON DETAINEES, AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. THE
INQUIRIES CAME FROM THE OFFICES OF CONGRESSMAN BEDELL,
CONGRESSMAN RYAN, AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.
THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE CONGRESSMEN'S INFORMANTS TO GIVE
THEIR NAMES, AFFILIATIONS, OR SOURCES PREVENTS US FROM
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TRACING THEIR REPORTS TO A COMMON SOURCE, WHICH MAY HAVE
BEEN THEIR INTENTION. ONE REPRESENTED HIMSELF AS ATTORNEY
FOR SALES' PARENTS, WHOM HE CLAIMED TO BE AMERICAN CITI-
ZENS AND TO HAVE RECEIVED CABLE CONFIRMING HER DEATH. WE
HAVE NO INFORMATION CONFIRMING PRESENCE OF PARENTS IN U.S.
OR THEIR U.S. CITIZENSHIP. UPDATE PREPARED IN DECEMBER BY
TASK FORCE ON DETAINEES LISTS SALES AS MISSING, "ONE OF

THOSE BELIEVED TO BE EITHER IN A MILITARY SAFEHOUSE OR
TO HAVE ALREADY BEEN ELIMINATED."

2. TALES OF CORRUPTION MOVE MARCOS TO PROPRIETATE FOREIGN
BUSINESSMEN (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

CONCERNED BY U.S. PRESS STORIES THAT FOREIGN COMPANIES
HAVE EITHER BEEN FAVORED OR PLACED AT A DISADVANTAGE BY
FIRST FAMILY FRIENDS AND RELATIVES, MARCOS HAS MOVED TO
"RESTORE CONFIDENCE" IN GOP IMPARTIALITY AND TO HEAR
DIRECTLY THE CONCERNS AND GRIEVANCES OF THE FOREIGN
BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN MANILA. AS PART OF THIS CAMPAIGN,
MARCOS HAS REVOKED A GROSSLY DISCRIMINATORY TARIFF THAT
HAD EFFECTIVELY PUT AN AMERICAN COMPANY (FILTRONA) OUT
OF BUSINESS TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SAME PRESIDENTIAL CRONY
WHO PROFITED FROM THE WESTINGHOUSE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
CONTRACT. COINCIDENCE OR NOT, THE CASE OF AN AMERICAN
INVESTOR WHOSE LOGGING LICENSE WAS REVOKED AND VENEER MILL
SHUT DOWN, APPARENTLY BY INTERESTS CLOSE TO THE PALACE,
HAS ALSO RECENTLY BEEN PROMISED A TOP-LEVEL HEARING.
THE CURRENT SITUATION OFFERS AN UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO
PRESS FOR CORRECTION OF INEQUITABLE TREATMENT OF AMERICAN
INVESTMENT, WHICH IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN LARGELY INSTI-
GATED BY INDIVIDUALS ENJOYING MALACANANG CONNECTIONS.
MOVEMENT WILL HAVE TO BE MADE QUICKLY, HOWEVER, BEFORE
MARCOS' SENSITIVITY TO THE ISSUE FADES.
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3. PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION.

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Message Attributes

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